

HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Federal officials say the general public should first call 911 if they witness a hazardous material emergency. Without putting yourself in danger, report the size and markings on the vehicle, specifically the color of the placards and identification number.

Please note the following organizations, which have important information on hazmats:

National Response Center (NRC)

The national point of contact for reporting all chemical, radiological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the U.S. and its territories. Employers are required to notify the NRC whenever reportable quantities of hazmats are spilled or released into the environment. The NRC never closes, operating 24/7, every day of the year. *Contact: 1-800-424-8802 or <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.htm>.*

Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHM)

A national safety program charged with minimizing the risks to life and property inherent in the commercial transportation of hazmats. The OHM provides information regarding proper shipment of hazardous substances, including labeling of packages and placarding of vehicles. *Contact: U.S. DOT, Research and Special Programs Admin., Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or Transportation Safety Hotline 1-888-DOT-SAFETY (1-888-368-7238), <http://www.hazmat.dot.gov>; training info can be found at <http://www.hazmat.dot.gov/training.htm>.*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Works with businesses, state and local authorities to make sure hazmats are properly treated and disposed of and oversees cleanup of hazardous waste sites. *A list of 300 hazmats is available at: http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/emci/chemref/complete_index.html. Contact: <http://www.epa.gov>; for recognizing hazmats: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/community/knowhaz.htm>; or e-mail public-access@epa.gov.*

State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC)

They are required in each state by the Superfund Act. They designate the emergency planning districts, appoint local emergency planning committees, and supervise and coordinate all activities. *Contact: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/serclist.htm>.*

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH)

Pocket guide to Chemical Hazards Information for employers/employees. Available on line at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npg.html> or by calling 202-512-1800, the U.S. Superintendent of Documents.

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)

Appointed by SERCs, they develop emergency plans that prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies. It receives emergency releases and hazardous chemical inventory information submitted by employers and other local facilities. *To locate and contact your LEPC visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/lepclist.htm>.*

Homeowners and Hazmats

A fact sheet can be found at: <http://es.epa.gov/new/contacts/newsletters/shopping.html>.

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA)

Hazmat standard can be found at: http://www.osha-slc.gov/OshStd_data/1910_1200.htm; 29 CFR 1910.120(q) for Emergency Respondents & Hazardous Waste Operations.

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA)

Hazmat Accidents Fact Sheet can be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/hazmatf.htm>.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Contact: <http://www.nrc.gov>.

U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

Contact: <http://www.nts.gov/default.htm>.

Canadian Government

Contact: <http://www.cciw.ca/glimr/data/great-lakes-atlas/intro.html>.

Personal Protection Equipment Information

Contact: http://www.princeton.edu/~ehs/hazcomguide/section_3.htm; <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/hazsubs/equip.htm>.

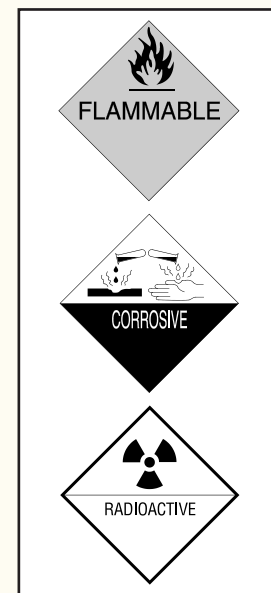
The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)

ASSE provides technical publications, training courses, seminars on these issues as well as having transportation and environmental practice specialty sections. *For more information and ASSE hazmat fact sheets contact: <http://www.asse.org>, customerservice@asse.org or call 847-699-2929.*

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American Society of Safety Engineers'

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY INFORMATION GUIDE



Celebrating North American Occupational Safety & Health Week (NAOSH)

PROVIDED BY:



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: A SAFETY INFORMATION GUIDE

Each year 3.1 billion tons of hazardous materials (hazmats) are transported throughout the U.S. by truck, rail, pipeline and water. The majority without incidence. The tonnage of hazmats being transported is increasing and with our changing world, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has developed this guide to provide the public with key information on what hazmats are, the hazmat laws and who to contact should an emergency occur. Also, when an incident occurs it is important to know that not just anyone or any clean-up company can clean-up a hazmat spill or accident area. This guide provides the information needed on this and much, much, more.

In support of the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week and our commitment to protecting people, property and the environment, the non-profit ASSE and its more than

30,000 individual members made up of occupational safety, health and environmental professionals believe that providing key resources and safety information will go a long way in preventing tragedies, injuries and diseases.

This brochure provides basic information, but it is important to note that in addition to the federal government, every state and local community has key information and contingency plans in place, updated regularly, on hazmats and hazmat emergencies. We urge you to review them now. At work and in your community, you can always turn to your professional safety, health and environmental officer, fire department and emergency service personnel for guidance on this and other occupational safety and health issues. For more information and ASSE hazmat fact sheets contact us at <http://www.asse.org> or 847-699-2929.

WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMATS)?

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), in the past 10 years there has been a vast growth in the amount of hazmats transported on a daily basis resulting in a high level of risk.

- In 2000 there were a total of 17,514 hazmat incidents in the U.S. resulting in 13 fatalities, 246 injuries and causing \$72,727,595 in damages. Ohio had the most incidents, with Texas second and California third
- More than 800,000 hazmat shipments are transported daily
- 3.1 billion tons of hazmats are transported annually
- 500,000 daily shipments involve chemical and allied products
- 300,000 daily shipments involve petroleum products
- 10,000 involve hazardous and medical waste
- 94% of individual shipments are carried by truck
- 5% of individual shipments are carried by air

Hazmats can be:

Corrosive—strong enough to eat away at steel drums or human skin.

Ignitable—present a fire hazard because they are flammable at relatively low temperatures.

Reactive—can explode or release deadly fumes by mixing with water or reacting with heat or pressure.

Radioactive—both high and low radioactivity that can lead to dangerous side effects for thousands of years.

Toxic—are poisonous; exposure to these types of materials can result in severe health problems.

Infectious—are also toxic wastes, but in a different category, they are infected with some type of germ, bacteria, or virus that could cause disease in humans and animals.

U.S. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LAWS INCLUDE:

USA Patriot Act of 2001

Passed soon after 9/11. A state may not issue a hazmat license to any individual unless the U.S. Transportation Secretary determines that the individual poses no security risk, this includes license renewals. Also, the U.S. Attorney General must conduct an international background check.

Hazardous Material Transportation Uniform Safety Act of 1990 (HMTUSA)

Clarified the confusing and conflicting state, local and federal hazardous material regulations.

Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA/Superfund)

Oversees the cleaning up of thousands of known contaminated sites across the U.S.

Resources Conservation & Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA)

The first national hazmat law. It identified hazardous wastes, listed guidelines for using, treating and transporting them, and developed a method to track the hazardous wastes from the place where they are created to their eventual disposal.

Toxic Substances Control Act (1976)

This law allows the EPA to monitor production, use, and health and environmental effects of various chemicals. The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1975 — improves the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Transportation Secretary to protect against risks to life and property which are inherent in the transportation of hazmats in commerce.

